

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01191 081650Z

51

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5386

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, DM

SUBJECT: AFRICAN LABOR PARTICIPATION IN AFL/CIO PROGRAM

REF: STATE 152271 AND 143012

1. DO NOT BELEVE TIME NOW PROPITIOUS EXTEND INVITATION TO DAHOMEAN TRADE UNION LEADER AS SUGGESTED IN REFTELS. DAHOMEAN LABOR MOVEMENT NOW IN PROCESS MAJOR RESHUFFLE WITH MUCH MANEUVERING FOR POSITION WITHIN NEW UNIFIED ORGANISM. MRGD ATTITUDE DECIDEDLY COOL TOWARDS RELATIONS WITH NON-AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. IN MAY 1 TALK TO TRADE UNIONISTS, PRESIDENT KEREKOU SET OUT MRGD OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN AFFILIATION AND LABOR MINISTER HAS SINCE REITERATED SAME ATTITUDE.

2. ADDITIONAL FACTOR WHICH WOULD PREVENT OUR INVITING ADETONANH IS MRGD REQUIREMENT THAT ALL FOREIGN TRAVEL AND STUDY GRANTS BE OFFERED TO MRGD WITHOUT SPECIFYING CANDIDATE. MRGD WISHES CHOOSE PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, REGRETFULLY CONCLUDE INVITATION TO DAHOMEAN TRADE UNIONIST WOULD NOT BE WISE THIS YEAR.
ANDERSON

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